



CF510 HUMAN SEXUALITY

Fall 2022

PROFESSOR

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Office hours: Tuesday and Friday morning by appointment

DESCRIPTION (from *Student Handbook*)

An in-depth look at human sexuality including physiology, sexuality and singleness, marital sexuality, homosexuality, sexual addiction, and sexual abuse.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Identify and defend biblically and winsomely God's intent for human sexuality and sex, to understand the content and purposes of God's commands pertaining to sexual behavior and desires, and to engage constructively with those who hold opposing views.
2. Articulate an evangelical, biblical ethic of sexuality with respect to singleness, marriage, gender, homosexuality, gender dysphoria, and sexual abuse.
3. Minister more effectively to those who struggle with issues in relation to sexuality: to teach, disciple, counsel, and shepherd others with respect to biblical perspectives and practices pertaining to human sexuality, to foster an increasing desire and ability to live in faithfulness to God and others.
4. Apply biblical principles of sexuality to his / her life so that they grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ in personal and relational health and holiness, as an aspect of learning what it means to love God more than anything else, and to love others as yourself. This should be reflected in the student embracing his or her sexuality as a gift from God, and to learn to see the true joy of living according to God design and will.

COURSE TEXTS (SEE BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY)

1. Brad Hambrick, General Editor, *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused Handbook*. B&H Publishers, 2019.
2. Dennis P. Hollinger, *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life*. Baker Academic, 2009.
3. Vaughan Roberts, *Transgender*. The Good Book Company, 2016.
4. Preston Sprinkle, *People to be Loved: Why Homosexuality is not Just an Issue*. Zondervan, 2015.
5. Carl R. Trueman, *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*. Crossway, 2022.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (SEE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION BELOW – TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS AS WELL)

<i>Reading and Class Participation (25%)</i>	Attendance is expected unless prevented by extenuating circumstance. Students should participate in class discussion as appropriate. Class texts should be read carefully (see specific reading assignments below).
<i>News and Culture Assignment (25%)</i>	Students will identify and comment on 10 cultural artefacts that indicate the significance of human sexuality or views of human sexuality and sex in our culture.
<i>Paper (50%)</i>	I will give time in class to discussing the paper assignment as described below.

DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS**1. READING AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (25% OF GRADE).** This consists of three things:

- a. Come to class!
- b. Participate in discussion when appropriate
- c. Reading and reading summaries:

- 1) For Hollinger, Sprinkle, and Roberts, you can choose to do one of the following:
 - a) Take notes on the books as you read. Highlight key points, insights, and any points you disagree with. This need not be polished, but should be useful for future use. 2-5 pages. **Due one week after the final reading for the book is completed.**
 - b) Write a simple 1-2 page reflection on the book. In what way was the book helpful? Would you recommend the book? Include key insights or key ideas, as well as points you disagree with. It can be written like a blog post, giving people an idea of what the book is about and whether you would recommend it. **Due one week after the final reading for the book is completed.**
- 2) For Trueman and Hambrick: you will be given reduction in class time in order to read and reflect on these books carefully. Write 2-4 pages with the most important arguments and key points from the author, and insights gained, as well as any points of disagreement. **Due dates: September 8 (Trueman) and October 20 (Hambrick).**

2. **NEWS AND CULTURE (25% OF GRADE).** For this assignment, identify and comment on 10 “artefacts.” These are things that indicate the significance of human sexuality or views of human sexuality and sex in our culture. Examples will be discussed in class and/or posted online. This could include:
- Newspaper and magazine articles.** You can look for these in the daily paper, online in major publications, etc.
 - Other media.** Television, movies, theatre, podcasts, etc.
 - Songs.** Of particular interest here is popular music, current and past. You could check the “top 40” charts for any given period, for various styles of music.

NOTE:

- The 10 artefacts should be drawn from at least 2 or three different types.
- Each should include a brief (not more than one paragraph) description that indicates why it is of interest / relevance.

3. **PAPER (50% OF GRADE).**

Choose a topic from the list below, or see me if you would like to do a topic that is not mentioned here. Papers cannot have been submitted in any other course for academic credit. The following guidelines must be followed for the paper:

1. Form:

- **Papers should be written according to a recognized style guide (e.g., Chicago Manual of Style).**
- **Length:** papers must be 10-12 pages in length, double-spaced, **including footnotes**. Use page numbering. **Do not exceed** the limit.
- **Font:** papers must be typed and double-spaced, with a reader-friendly font (e.g., Times New Roman). Small or difficult to read fonts will result in loss of points.
- **Outline:** you should have a clear outline in a table of contents (not counted in the page total), which you follow in your paper (placing headings in the body of your paper). The outline should be at least two levels (i.e., main points as I, II, III, and sub-points under each main point, as A, B, C, etc.).
- **Citations:** You should cite (not necessarily quote) at least 10 sources in your paper. In making citations in your paper, you may use either endnotes or footnotes (I prefer footnotes). You should also convey how the scriptures relate to your subject, whether through particular texts, guidelines, theological arguments, etc.

2. Content:

- Your paper should strike a balance between summarizing various positions and conclusions of others with regard to your topic, and your own analysis and position, with special reference to relevant biblical teaching.

- Include a description of the issue and its relevance. What moral issue or problem is raised on your topic?
- Where appropriate, provide an overview of significant moral views on different sides of the issue. If Christians have significant disagreement on the issue, lay out different views.
- Defend your own view, showing why you agree or disagree with other views.
- Show how scripture and theology apply to this issue.
- **Develop a thesis:** Don't simply discuss an issue; make a case for your position! An example of what a thesis is not: "I will discuss what Scripture teaches about homosexuality." An example of a thesis statement: "I will argue that Scripture prohibits homosexual acts. I will support this position by examining biblical texts pertaining to homosexuality, including the creation accounts, and by describing God's intent for sexuality as depicted in Scripture."
- Papers will be uploaded online (not emailed to the professor).

NOTE: Plagiarism is taken very seriously. Do not present the language or ideas of someone else as your own original work! If a paper is determined to contain plagiarism, the student will automatically receive a failing grade.

GRADING PAPER PROJECTS:

Papers will be assessed by the following criteria:

Form, including: clarity, organization and writing style; grammar and technical execution, including spelling;

Content, including: scholarship and quality of research; evidence of critical thinking; interaction with sources; clear thesis and defense of thesis.

Ideas for papers: You may work on a different topic, as long as it is directly relevant to this course. If in doubt, see me. These are ideas for paper topics, not paper titles. You may need to narrow the focus significantly.

Celibacy / Singleness	The nature of sexuality	Prostitution and human trafficking	Contraception
Culture and sexual ethics	Masturbation	Sexual Purity	Transgenderism
Gender (Identity, roles, etc.)	Homosexuality	Pornography	Marriage and Sexuality
Sexual abuse	Cohabitation	Gender Dysphoria	

LATE POLICY FOR ASSIGNMENTS

LATE PAPERS MAY BE ACCEPTED IF THE STUDENT NOTIFIES THE PROFESSOR AND TURNS IN THE ASSIGNMENT WITHIN A WEEK OF THE DUE DATE. IN MOST CASES A PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED.

GRADING SCALE AND INFORMATION

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Grading Scale:
A+	97-100	4.0	Excellent; superior
A	93-96.99	4.0	
A-	90-92.99	3.7	
B+	87-89.99	3.3	
B	83-86.99	3.0	Strong work; commendable
B-	80-82.99	2.7	
C+	77-79.99	2.3	
C	73-76.99	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable
C-	70-72.99	1.7	
D+	67-69.99	1.3	
D	63-66.99	1.0	Below average
D-	60-62.99	0.7	
F	0-59.99	0	No credit

*Grades will not be rounded up

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE - *THE COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS MAY BE ADJUSTED AS NECESSARY*

NOTE: THE READING IS NOT DIVIDED EVENLY WEEK BY WEEK, SO PLAN AHEAD. IN PARTICULAR, WEEKS 3, 7, AND 9 HAVE HEAVIER LOADS. WORK OUT YOUR READING PLAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER SO YOU CAN KEEP UP ON HEAVIER WEEKS.

1. AUGUST 19
 - INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
2. AUGUST 26: READ HOLLINGER PAGES 9-115
 - FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICS
 - WHAT IS SEXUALITY? A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF HUMAN SEXUALITY
 - CONTRAST A BIBLICAL VIEW WITH CULTURAL VIEWS OF SEXUALITY
3. SEPTEMBER 2: READ TRUEMAN
 - ASSIGNMENT: TRUEMAN SUMMARY AND INSIGHTS (**DUE SEPTEMBER 8**)
4. SEPTEMBER 9: HOLLINGER PAGES 223-246
 - WORLDVIEWS, SEXUALITY AND SEX
 - HOW DID WE GET HERE? DISCUSSION OF TRUEMAN
 - CHRISTIAN TEACHING FROM CHURCH FATHERS TO CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

5. SEPTEMBER 16: READ HOLLINGER PAGES 119-170
 - MARRIAGE: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT IS IT FOR? EXCLUSIVE, ENDURING, FRUITFUL, FAITHFUL, FELLOWSHIP
 - SEX AND MARRIAGE
 - SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE
 - SINGLENES AND CELIBACY

6. SEPTEMBER 23: READ HOLLINGER PAGES 199-222
 - MARRIAGE AND PROCREATION: MUST MARRIAGE BE FRUITFUL?
 - CONTRACEPTION: SEX SEPARATED FROM PROCREATION
 - ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: PROCREATION SEPARATED FROM SEX

7. SEPTEMBER 30: READ HOLLINGER PAGES 171-197, SPRINKLE
 - SEXUAL FAITHFULNESS
 - HOMOSEXUALITY

8. OCTOBER 7: READ ROBERTS
 - GENDER AND GENDER DYSPHORIA

9. OCTOBER 14: READ HAMBRICK
 - ASSIGNMENT: HAMBRICK SUMMARY AND INSIGHTS (**DUE OCTOBER 20**)

10. OCTOBER 21
 - THE CHURCH, SOCIETY, AND SEXUAL ABUSE

PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 30

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY

Here are some recommended resources for further reading and research. Note that they represent a range of views, i.e., I am not endorsing them simply because they are on the list (they may be highly dubious but influential and important to know about).

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible and Same-sex Attraction*. The Good Book Company, 2013.

Allberry, Sam. *What God Has to Say about Our Bodies: How the Gospel is Good News for our Physical Selves*. Crossway, 2021.

Allberry, Sam. *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?* The Good Book Company, 2020.

Allison, Gregg R. *Embodied: Living as Whole People in a Fractured World*. Baker Books, 2021.

- Anderson, Ryan T. *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment*. Encounter Books, 2018.
- Ash, Christopher. *Marriage: Sex in the Service of God*. Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2005.**
- Atkinson, David J., et al., eds. *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Brown, Peter. *The Body and Society*. Columbia University Press, 1988.
- Brownson, James V. *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships*. Eerdmans, 2013.
- Burk, Denny. *What is the Meaning of Sex?* Crossway, 2013.**
- Butterfield, Rosaria Champagne. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith*. Crown and Covenant Publications, 2012.
- Cahill, Lisa Sowle. *Between the Sexes*. Fortress Press, 1985.
- Countryman, William L. *Dirt, Greed & Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today*. Fortress Press, 1988.
- Danylak, Barry. *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life*. Crossway, 2010.**
- Davies, Jon and Gerard Loughlin. *Sex These Days: Essays on Theology, Sexuality, and Society*. Sheffield, 1997.
- Denhollander, Rachel. *What is a Girl Worth?* Tyndale Momentum, 2019.
- DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?* Crossway, 2015.
- Gagnon, Robert A. J. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Abingdon, 2001.**
- Green, Joel B., et al, ed. *Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics*. Baker, 2011.
- Grenz, Stanley. *Sexual Ethics: An Evangelical Perspective*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- Grenz, Stanley J., and Roy D. Bell. *Betrayal of Trust: Confronting and Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct*. Baker Books, 1995.
- Heimbach, Daniel. *True Sexual Morality: Recovering Biblical Standards for a Culture in Crisis*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004.
- Hill, Wesley. *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*. Zondervan, 2010.
- Hollinger, Dennis P. *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life*. Baker Academic, 2009.**

- Hsu, Albert. *Singles at the Crossroads: A Fresh Perspective on Christian Singleness*. IVP, 1997.**
- James, Sharon. *Gender Ideology: What Do Christians Need to Know?* Christian Focus, 2019.
- Jones, Stanton L. and Mark A. Yarhouse. *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.**
- Jones, Stanton L. and Mark A. Yarhouse. *Ex-Gays?: A Longitudinal Study of Religiously Mediated Change in Sexual Orientation*. IVP Academic, 2007.
- Loader, William. *Making Sense of Sex: Attitudes Towards Sexuality in Early Jewish and Christian Literature*. Eerdmans, 2013.
- Nelson, James. *Embodiment*. Augsburg Publishing House, 1978.
- O'Donovan, Oliver. *Transsexualism and Christian Marriage*. Grove Booklet no. 48, 1982.
- Paris, Jenell Williams. *The End of Sexual Identity: Why Sex is Too Important to Define Who We Are*. IVP, 2011.
- Pearcey, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. Baker Books, 2018
- Piper, John and Wayne A. Grudem, eds. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*. Crossway, 1991.
- Roberts, Vaughn. *Transgender*. Talking Points. The Good Book Company, 2016.
- Smedes, Lewis. *Sex for Christians*. Eerdmans, 1976.
- Sprinkle, Preston. *People to be Loved: Why Homosexuality is not Just an Issue*. Zondervan, 2015.
- Sprinkle, Preston, ed. *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church*. Counterpoints: Bible and Theology. Zondervan, 2016. With William R. G. Loader, Megan K. DeFranza, Wesley Hill, and Stephen R. Holmes.
- Stafford, Tim. *Sexual Chaos*, IVP, 1993.
- Thielicke, Helmut. *The Ethics of Sex*. Trans. J. Doberstein. Harper & Row, 1964.
- Tracy, Steven R. *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse*. Zondervan: 2005.
- Trueman, Carl R. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution*. Crossway, 2020.**
- Turner, Phillip. *Sex, Money & Power*. Cowley Publications, 1985.
- Yarhouse, Mark A. *Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends*. Bethany House, 2010.**
- Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*. IVP, 2015.**

Via, Dan O. and Robert A.J. Gagnon. *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003.

Vines, Matthew. *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*. Convergent Books, 2014.

Walker, Andrew T. *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say about Gender Identity?* The Good Book Company, 2017.

Recommended Articles:

“Is Birth Control Christian?” *Christianity Today* (November 11, 1991): 34-45.

“Contraception: A Symposium.” *First Things* 88 (December 1998): 17-29.

“Great Sex: Reclaiming a Christian Sexual Ethic.” *Christianity Today* (October 2, 1987): 23-46.

Grenz, Stanley. “The Purpose of Sex: Toward a Theological Understanding of Human Sexuality.” *Crux* (June 1990): 27-34.

Heth, William A. “Unmarried ‘for the Sake of the Kingdom’ (Matthew 19:12) in the Early Church.” *Grace Theological Journal* (Spring 1987): 55-88.

Lebacqz, Karen. “Appropriate Vulnerability: A Sexual Ethic for Singles.” *The Christian Century* (May 6, 1987): 435-38.

McColley, Dawn. “A Biblical Response to Baby-Making.” *Journal of Biblical Ethics in Medicine* (Summer 1991): 45-48.

Nelson, James B. “Homosexuality: An Issue for the Church.” *Theological Markings* 5 (Winter 1975): 41-52.

Ramsey, Paul. "Human Sexuality in the History of Redemption." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 16/1 (Spring 1988): 56-86.

Rinehart, Paula. “Losing Our Promiscuity.” *Christianity Today* (July 10, 2000): 32-39.

Stott, John. “Homosexual marriage.” *Christianity Today* (November 22, 1985): 21-28.

Turner, Philip. “Sex and the Single Life.” *First Things* (May 1993), 15-21.